A7350-1

Home Appliance *NewsLine*

An AHAM Bulletin to Editors

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 17, 1992

CONTACT: Mary Gillespie
312/984-5822,
or Craig Schulz
312/984-5825

MAJOR HOME APPLIANCE SHIPMENTS

RISE 8.4% IN FEBRUARY

CHICAGO -- The major home appliance industry shipped over 3.4 million units in February, almost 264,000 units more for the month than one year ago, reports the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM).

The vast majority of product categories (ten of 12) contributed to the month's advance by surpassing their year-ago levels. Shipments of two deserve special mention:

- **Gas ranges** increased 17.4% for the month to their best February level since 1973. Product shipments reached 186,700 units.
- **Freezers,** up 21.7%, achieved their highest February level since 1984. Product shipments totaled 90,800 units.

While February's numbers are encouraging, they benefited from comparison to the depressed levels of one year ago when the Gulf War was in progress. The gains reported for the month had the net effect of boosting February product shipments nearer to their 1990 levels.

Comparing the first two months of this year to last, shipments increased by 0.6% to over 6.7 million units. Only four of the 12 product categories contributed to the increase.

Major appliance shipments in 1992 are expected to reach 44.7 million units, according to the latest industry forecast.

# # #

MAJOR HOME APPLIANCE INDUSTRY SHIPMENTS*, THOUSANDS OF UNITS
February, 1992

	FEBRUARY			CALENDAR YEAR TO DATE		
	1992	1991	% Change	1992	1991	% Change
ALL MAJOR APPLIANCES**	**3,406.5**	**3,142.6**	**8.4%**	**6,750.8**	**6,709.3**	**0.6%**
COOKING - TOTAL	**1,110.1**	**953.5**	**16.4%**	**2,235.2**	**2,083.6**	**7.3%**
ELECTRIC RANGES - TOTAL	250.8	236.5	6.0%	503.9	504.6	-0.1%
Free Standing	172.2	164.3	4.8%	348.9	348.7	0.1%
Built-In	46.2	41.7	10.8%	90.4	91.3	-1.0%
Surface Cooking Units	32.4	30.5	6.2%	64.7	64.6	0.2%
GAS RANGES - TOTAL	186.7	159.0	17.4%	368.1	349.5	5.3%
Free Standing	155.0	132.3	17.2%	305.4	295.8	3.2%
Built-In	6.9	6.8	1.5%	14.6	14.3	2.1%
Surface Cooking Units	24.8	20.0	24.0%	48.1	39.3	22.4%
MICROWAVE OVENS/RANGES***	679.6	565.1	20.3%	1,377.1	1,245.3	10.6%
HOME LAUNDRY - TOTAL	**857.9**	**829.3**	**3.4%**	**1,756.4**	**1,802.4**	**-2.6%**
AUTOMATIC WASHERS	502.1	485.7	3.4%	1,014.5	1,040.9	-2.5%
DRYERS - TOTAL	355.8	343.5	3.6%	741.9	761.5	-2.6%
Electric	270.5	267.0	1.3%	562.4	584.6	-3.8%
Gas	85.3	76.6	11.4%	179.5	176.9	1.5%
KITCHEN CLEAN UP - TOTAL	**570.9**	**573.7**	**-0.5%**	**1,201.4**	**1,270.5**	**-5.4%**
DISPOSERS	293.6	308.8	-4.9%	642.8	670.7	-4.2%
DISHWASHERS - TOTAL	267.5	255.3	4.8%	539.9	577.2	-6.5%
Built-In	253.8	237.8	6.7%	509.6	536.4	-5.0%
Portable	13.7	17.5	-21.7%	30.3	40.7	-25.6%
COMPACTORS	9.8	9.7	1.0%	18.8	22.6	-16.8%
FOOD PRESERVATION - TOTAL	**567.7**	**508.4**	**11.7%**	**1,123.8**	**1,086.3**	**3.5%**
REFRIGERATORS	476.9	433.8	9.9%	943.1	917.0	2.8%
FREEZERS - TOTAL	90.8	74.6	21.7%	180.7	169.3	6.7%
Chest	51.3	38.4	33.6%	99.1	89.9	10.2%
Upright	39.4	36.1	9.1%	81.6	79.4	2.8%
HOME COMFORT - TOTAL	**299.9**	**277.8**	**8.0%**	**434.1**	**466.6**	**-7.0%**
ROOM AIR CONDITIONERS	226.9	184.7	22.8%	329.7	343.9	-4.1%
DEHUMIDIFIERS	73.0	93.1	-21.6%	104.4	122.7	-14.9%

* Includes shipments for the U.S. market whether imported or domestically produced, and export shipments
** Numbers do not add because of overlapping product categories.
*** Includes microwave ovens and combination microwave ovens/ranges.